

And where do we go from here? ask Wycombe 'Wonderers'

HIGH WYCOMBE BOROUGH Council planning committee's view that they have "certain misgivings" about the suggested move by Wycombe Wanderers to a new ground at Terriers was described at the council's meeting as a "negative sort of response".

The planning committee reported to the council that they considered the proposed siting of the new ground should have regard to the future road pattern and to possible future residential development. They have told the county council that they have certain misgivings as to how the move would fit in with the overall planning of the area known as H7 in the High Wycombe and District Planning Review.

Councillor Alan Goodearl said he felt this was a negative response. "The Wanderers deserve a little more consideration than has perhaps been given by the estates and planning committee," he said.

"They really are between the devil and the deep blue sea. They are faced with acquisition by the hospital authorities, but I know that sincerely they want to remain at Loakes Park. Even with its slope it's an ideal place for the football ground.

"But at the other end they have weighed it up with the fact that the hospital does need more space and that the health of the community does come into the picture."

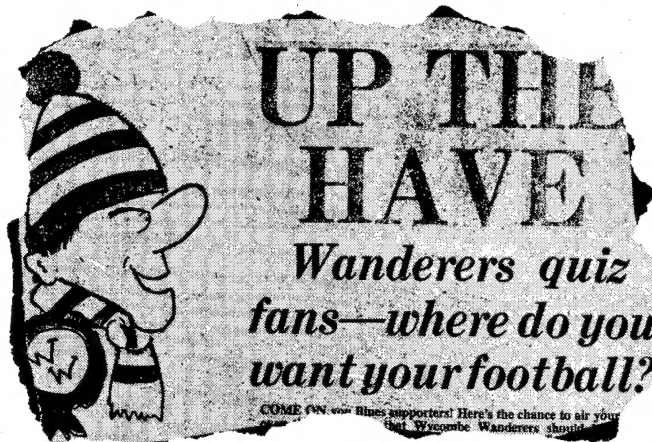
Councillor Goodearl asked if the Wanderers could not move to Terriers where could they go. "I am just wondering whether the planning committee have put forward any other suggestions where they can go if not to Kingshill Road."

Alderman amazed

Alderman Mike Keeley said the thing that amazed him most about this matter was the view by the hospital authorities that even if they used Loakes Park to build it would still not be large enough for their future uses and they would have to build elsewhere eventually.

To him it was a retrograde step to take away the Wanderers' ground and create traffic problems and hazards in a part of the town which was not capable of taking it.

"I, as chairman of the public works committee, feel that my



committee would not like to see added traffic in an area where it is highly residential," he added.

Councillor George Greig suggested that the area near the new sports complex at Handy Cross might be a good place to site a new ground.

Alderman Robert Darby said that the result of the traffic survey for the area had first to be studied, and the educational needs taken into consideration, along with the future development of the town generally.

"After this year you won't be talking about 60,000 people," he said. "You will be talking about 140,000 people."

Flashback to 'Mid-week' January 10, this year when we put up the heading "Up the Blues, let's have your views."

Chairman of the planning committee, Councillor Derek Slowe, said that it would have been difficult for the committee to have done anything more than they had done, especially as the application had been made to the Wycombe Rural Council.

"We have made pertinent observations and obviously it will be up to the rural council to make granting of the application if they think it necessary or advisable."